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PAUL WILLIAMS: My name is Paul Williams, I'm a nuke. I've worked in the nuclear industry, not with the utility or not with the government, since 1962. I have helped build reactors for the commercial industry and also the neighboring industries. And since 1972, I have been working in radioactive waste, improving the situation where my feeble brain allows me.

1 My first two comments are more political than anything else. I recommend passing of S1287, as currently written in the Senate. Secondly, I recommend that the NRC is better prepared to produce and regulate the radiation exposure standards for Yucca Mountain than the EPA. Simply because they have done it for many years and all of us learn from experience.

2 One item I'd like to consider, the straight line hypothesis, which the DOE people mentioned, has been the guide for determining radiation safety since the Manhattan project days and the bombs over Tokyo. But a number of us have suggest -- have thought that this maybe isn't quite right for low level radiation and I can give you a few examples of this and I will. Within the last few years a great deal of study has gone into determining whether the straight line hypothesis is correct in the low level ranges. Dr. Bernard Cohen of the University of Pittsburgh once has studied radon in -- somewhere over 300,000 thousand homes covering better than half of the population in the United States. His work and others indicate to us that the straight line hypothesis in the low level radiation, that we're concerned about regulating to the population, or general population, is wrong.

As with many other toxic materials and chemicals, for instance, one aspirin is toxic but it will cure your headache and if you take 100, it will kill you. Low level waste seems to have a threshold effect too. On this basis we are -- if this is correct, and I think it is, we are spending billions of dollars over regulating radioactive waste that is not doing any good and, in fact, is perhaps harming the people involved. The reason I say this is we've studied people in other parts of the world that have received 50 to 100 times more natural radiation than we do in Ohio.

We've studied the people that work in nuclear facilities that are allowed to take 5,000 millirems a year in occupational exposure, whereas in Ohio, the average person natural radiation exposure is somewhere between 200 and 350. I'm a good example of that, in a local hospital here 12 years ago, in 17 minutes I received 85,000 millirems of radiation to my chest to cure a heart problem. 12 years later I think I'm still alive.

3 With that I hope that in the Yucca Mountain work, you consider the work of Bernard Cohen and others to lower the cost of this project, not only for Yucca Mountain and other facilities also. I hadn't planned on saying this but an article in the paper this morning quoted Mayor White as requesting full disclosure accurate and complete regarding the risk of transportation of nuclear waste through Ohio. I agree with Mayor White whole heartedly.

4... My experience for the last 38 years though in studying the situation, indicates that many of thousands of radioactive waste shipments have been made in the United States. Due to the extreme tests, the containers or casks they put it in, they have been 100 percent effective in assuring the safety of the public. While accidents have occurred, no significant radiation release has ever occurred because the containers were extensively tested. For example, they were hit in

4 cont. to a solid barrier, which I think someone here alluded to a little bit. That same cask was put on another trailer and hit by a railroad locomotive at 80 miles and hour and the cask penetrated a third of the railroad locomotive without damage or leakage in the cask. Thank you. I'm all done.